



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2  
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
☎ +31 70 340 2040  
TX 31651 epo nl  
FAX +31 70 340 3016

Europäisches  
Patentamt

Zweigstelle  
in Den Haag  
Recherchen-  
abteilung

European  
Patent Office

Branch at  
The Hague  
Search  
division

Office européen  
des brevets

Département à  
La Haye  
Division de la  
recherche

Schwabe - Sandmair - Marx  
Stuntzstrasse 16  
81677 München  
ALLEMAGNE

Datum/Date

16.06.04

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

54 637 VI

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

04007639.0-2314-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Ricoh Company Ltd.

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☐ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 3A

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 6 361 038 B1 (IMADA DAISUKE ET AL) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) * the whole document *	1-3, 17, 18	B65H1/04 B65H7/04
A	US 4 888 617 A (OKUZAWA TUGIO) 19 December 1989 (1989-12-19) * abstract; figures 1-3 *	1-3, 17, 18	
A, D	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 07, 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) & JP 2000 118792 A (RICOH CO LTD), 25 April 2000 (2000-04-25) * abstract *	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65H

1

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search

MUNICH

Date of completion of the search

26 May 2004

Examiner

Rupprecht, A

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone  
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  
A : technological background  
O : non-written disclosure  
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention  
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  
D : document cited in the application  
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

FILED  
3-21-4

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 00 7639

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-05-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6361038	B1	26-03-2002	JP 2000327175 A	28-11-2000
US 4888617	A	19-12-1989	JP 63218453 A	12-09-1988
JP 2000118792	A	25-04-2000	NONE	

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)**